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REVIEW OF THE WORK OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM AND SELECTED ORGANIZATIONS DEALING WITH INVESTMENT-RELATED TECHNOLOGY ISSUES

Note by the UNCTAD secretariat

GE.94-50553

1. In accordance with the work programme of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Interrelationship between Investment and Technology Transfer, adopted at the Group's first session (25-29 January 1993) and endorsed by the Trade and Development Board at its second executive session, the UNCTAD secretariat undertook a review of the activities of the United Nations system and selected organizations dealing with investment-related technology issues.

2. This review was submitted to the second session of the Ad Hoc Working Group as document TD/B/WG.5/6. In the light of the Working Group's discussion on this document, the secretariat has prepared the following amendment:

In chapter II, section A, subsection 1, insert the following new text:

" (a) **United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)**

The Cartagena Commitment, adopted at UNCTAD VIII, marked a new departure for work in the field of technology: UNCTAD's work programme in support of the economic development of developing countries is to promote transfer of technology to, and development of technological capabilities in, developing countries, including the least developed countries. These activities are to cover work on technology issues in their interrelationship with trade in goods and services, investment, finance and environment, as well as the role of entrepreneurship in the transfer, development and management of technology and related policies, modalities for channelling technology flows to developing countries and the role of intellectual property protection. In UNCTAD's technical cooperation activities, priority consideration should be given to assessments of developing countries' requirements for building up their capacity to evaluate, select, negotiate, acquire and develop technology; to programmes for human resource training, including training in the formulation of sound technology policies and the development of technical and managerial capabilities; and to the transfer, adaptation and generation of environmentally sound technologies.

UNCTAD's Ad Hoc Working Group on the Interrelationship between Investment and Technology Transfer, at its first session in January 1993, adopted an action-oriented work programme covering: (a) investment flows, transfer of technology and competitiveness; (b) technological capability-building in developing countries, particularly the LDCs, and in countries undergoing the process of transition to a market economy; and (c) transfer and development of environmentally sound technologies. The Group is also to identify for consideration areas in which technical cooperation should be strengthened.

Within the framework of the restructuring of the economic and social sectors in the United Nations, UNCTAD is now responsible for servicing the Commission on Science and Technology for Development. The work will cover the three substantive themes which will be the focus of the work of the Commission during the inter-sessional period 1993-1995 and which relate to: (a) technology for small-scale economic activities to address basic needs; (b) the gender implications of

science and technology for developing countries; and (c) the science and technology aspects of the sectoral issue to be discussed by the Commission on Sustainable Development in 1995. This work also includes activities on: (a) the contribution of technologies, including new and emerging areas, to industrialization in developing countries; and (b) information technologies and their role in the field of science and technology, in particular in relation to the needs of developing countries. The UNCTAD secretariat is also called upon to carry forward previous functions of the former United Nations Centre for Science and Technology for Development."